

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JOHN WITT**, on January 30, 2001 at 8.00 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. John Witt, Chairman (R)
Sen. Ken Miller, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. Royal Johnson (R)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mark Bruno, OBPP
Pam Joehler, Legislative Branch
Cayenna Johnson, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: University of Montana, 1/30/01
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0; 8:10 a.m.}

Mr. George Dennison, President, University of Montana, gave an overview of the University of Montana, in the following PowerPoint presentation:

EXHIBIT(jeh24a01)

President Dennison also gave the committee two booklets entitled, "Report to the Legislature and Budget Request for the 2003 Biennium" and "Most Frequently Asked Questions, The University of Montana-Missoula":

EXHIBIT(jeh24a02), EXHIBIT(jeh24a03)

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 17; 9:00 a.m.}

Ms. Lois Muir, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, gave an overview of the University of Montana-Missoula in the following PowerPoint presentation:

EXHIBIT(jeh24a04)

Provost Muir gave the committee two publications of *American Craft Magazine* in which University of Montana-Missoula students' artwork was featured:

EXHIBIT(jeh24a05), EXHIBIT(jeh24a06)

She also gave the committee two pieces of information regarding the economic partnerships the University of Montana campuses have within their communities entitled, "Businesses Served by the University of Montana-Missoula" and "Businesses Served by the University of Montana-Missoula College of Technology":

EXHIBIT(jeh24a07), EXHIBIT(jeh24a08)

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 16.5}

Mr. Frank Gilmore, Chancellor, University of Montana-Montana Tech, gave an overview of Montana Tech in the following PowerPoint presentation:

EXHIBIT(jeh24a09)

Chancellor Gilmore also gave the committee information regarding community and business collaboration with Montana Tech entitled, "List of Companies Worked With Over the Last Two Years":

EXHIBIT(jeh24a10)

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 7; 10:00 a.m.}

Mr. Stephen T. Hulbert, Chancellor, University of Montana-Western, gave an overview of Western University in the following PowerPoint presentation:

EXHIBIT(jeh24a11)

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 28}

Mr. Rick Gray, Dean/CEO, Helena College of Technology, gave an overview of Helena College of Technology in the following PowerPoint presentation:

EXHIBIT(jeh24a12)

Dean/CEO Gray, also gave the committee the following information entitled, "Helena College of Technology Business Relationships," and "Fact Sheet/New Classroom Facility Request."

EXHIBIT(jeh24a13), EXHIBIT(jeh24a14)

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 15}

President Dennison concluded the University of Montana overview in the remainder of the PowerPoint presentation in **Exhibit (1)** and presented the case for investing in higher education.

Proponents' Testimony

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 23}

Mr. Hal Lewis, U of M, testified that without an increase in \$500 state support per student FTE, the burden of tuition will be shifted to the student and affect those who cannot afford it.

Ms. Sarah Cobbler, U of M, testified that a state investment in higher education is the best way to provide for students. She explained with current budget restraints class sizes are getting bigger. Recently, when one of the favored professors was not rehired due to "budget constraints," a group of 25 students investigated the University of Montana budget searching for mismanagement; they found none. She noted Montana students do not want to see money wasted in higher education either.

Ms. Kim Poland, Student Body President, University of Montana, Western, testified she will leave college with a debt of \$21,000. She continued that many Western students are non-traditional students and are also trying to raise families. She requested that the committee increase the funding for state support for student FTE.

Mr. Gordy Pace, Alumnus, University of Montana, testified on behalf of the Montana Achievement Project. He stated staff

leaders from the entire state have worked in conjunction with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. Human resource issues are very important in higher education as 80% of the money funded in higher education goes towards human resources. He urged the committee to invest in the people who work in education.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 2.5}

Ms. Kay Unger, Faculty Member, University of Montana, urged the committee to increase funding to \$500 per student FTE and encouraged the investment in higher education.

Ms. Billie Goodmenson, Vice President Associated Students of Helena College of Technology, testified that rooms and laboratories have limited space and nursing labs are crowded. She urged the committee support of the new building and increased state support per student FTE. She added that student enrollment at HCT has increased by 53%.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 7}

REP. BUZZAS asked **President Dennison** how the University of Montana is going to deal with deferred maintenance. **President Dennison** explained that students have agreed to a academic facilities fee with the initial intent to refurbish classrooms built before 1971.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10}

SEN. MILLER asked **Chancellor Hulbert** if the \$17,000 average debt includes all students who have no debt. **Chancellor Hulbert** verified this. He then asked **President Dennison** to explain his figures on page 5 of **Exhibit (2)** regarding the national average of student tuition contribution for private higher education in comparison to student contribution to Montana public higher education. **SEN. MILLER** then verified the figures regarding the total cost of education in Montana on page 11 of **Exhibit (2)**. **SEN. MILLER** explained he felt these numbers were slanted and were comparing apples and oranges. **SEN. MILLER** asked **President Dennison** if the committee doubled the higher education budget in 10 years, could the Montana University System (MUS) deal with the deferred maintenance problems. **President Dennison** said that MUS could begin to deal with the problem.

REP. PETERSON asked **President Dennison** how significant remedial costs were for the University of Montana. **President Dennison** explained the University of Montana is working closely with K-12 to prepare students for higher education and they are continually working to change remedial curriculum to suit the needs of students. **SEN. JERGESON** explained in a recent study 91% of Montana graduates were found to be prepared for higher education.

REP. BUZZAS asked **President Dennison** to provide data showing the increase in the costs of higher education in the last 10 years, particularly regarding figures **SEN. MILLER** had indicating the MUS budget had increased by 102% in ten years.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 24.5}

CHAIRMAN WITT asked if there is a less expensive way to deal with deferred maintenance. **President Dennison** explained contractors bid on deferred maintenance with competitive bids and that bids are cost plus profit.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 30}

SEN. MILLER asked if **Chancellor Hulbert** could compare the expected salaries of students with a 4-year degree to a young person with only a high school education. **Chancellor Hulbert** responded he did not have those figures. **SEN. MILLER** said he has a new proposal to increase the state support per resident FTE by \$500. He will release the details of this proposal within the next few days.

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 2.4}

REP. PETERSON asked **Dean/CEO Gray** what salaries HCT graduates expect after completing of their program. **Dean/CEO Gray** replied many students begin at \$30,000 per year and that many of his students are being recruited out-of-state immediately.

CHAIRMAN WITT asked if there will come a time when the state will be too bloated with "technology". **Dean/CEO Gray** replied at this point those "technology" positions are needed and that economic growth is highly dependant on these kinds of positions.

SEN. JOHNSON asked **Dean/CEO Gray** if he was aware the committee cut \$2.5 million out of adult education and if he was in collaboration with OPI for adult education. **Dean/CEO Gray** explained most high schools students are less prepared for vocational education and are not aware of the opportunities.

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 8.2}

SEN. JERGESON made a comment on the suggestion that the University of Montana has presented false numbers. He stated all numbers are used by the LFD and state legislature consistently.

REP. BUZZAS stated the legislature has chosen not to keep up with funding education despite poll after poll which indicate the number one priority of the people is education. She said instead the legislature has given a tax relief for the wealthy, and increased funding for corrections.

CHAIRMAN WITT asked **President Dennison** to work with **SEN. MILLER** to continue the discussion about the figures in the University of Montana report.

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 13.2}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:47 A.M.

REP. JOHN WITT, Chairman

CAYENNA JOHNSON, Secretary

JW/CJ

EXHIBIT (jeh24aad)